

home. And that is what will happen if we don't pass these appropriations bills. They will end up in a giant omnibus bill—a giant continuing resolution. That means they would be funded at the same level as last year. We must do the people's business.

We have seen great courage and grand dedication in the eyes of our citizens. One has only to recall the firemen, the rescue workers, the policemen, the volunteers who served so valiantly in New York City and who still dig and labor patiently through the rubble that inters thousands of the bodies of our fellow citizens. Are Senators any less dedicated to our jobs than these people have been to theirs? One has only to observe Old Glory flying from the windows of passenger cars and clutched in the hands of children to appreciate anew the spirit of our people and the power of American ideals.

We must not fail the millions of Americans by sending the message to misguided men that we can be so easily spooked.

This Nation has always produced men and women who had the spirit and the fortitude to carry on, to do the difficult job of protecting freedom and securing the constitutional pillars of this, the greatest Nation on Earth.

This Senate is the grandest of those constitutional pillars. Let us secure the people's House and promote the people's welfare by the simple and straightforward act of continuing to do our business and to do it in an orderly and rational way.

Horace said:

Do your duty and leave the rest to heaven.

Now is the time for all of us to embrace the sublime wisdom of those words.

We might repeat the words of Longfellow in doing so:

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee—are all with thee!

THE GREAT GENERATIONS OF AMERICA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in his book, "The Greatest Generation," NBC's news anchorman Tom Brokaw discusses the greatness of the generation of Americans who withstood the problems, the terrors, the doubts, the

fears of the 1930s and the 1940s. He points out that it was this generation of Americans who "came of age in the Great Depression when economic despair hovered over the land like a plague." When Pearl Harbor made it irrefutably clear that America was not a fortress, he writes, "This generation . . . answered the call to help save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled." Afterward, those people "helped convert a wartime economy into the most powerful peacetime economy in history." This was "the greatest generation any society has ever produced."

Like Mr. Brokaw, I, too, admire the generation of Americans who survived the hardships of the Great Depression and won World War II. They were truly outstanding Americans, a great generation. I am proud to say they are of my generation.

But ever since reading Mr. Brokaw's book, I can't help but think about the greatness of not only that generation of Americans, but also the greatness of generation after generation of Americans. It seems that in almost every age of our history, Americans have risen to meet the challenges and difficulties of their times to move our country forward toward even further greatness.

I immediately think of the generation of Americans about which I love so much to read and to speak—the generation of Americans who won our independence and established this Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In the Declaration of Independence, these Americans took the ideas of the English enlightenment and made them a national vision. These Americans infused into the very nature of our political life the egalitarian, democratic impulses that guide us today.

In seeking our independence, those Americans demonstrated remarkable determination, remarkable courage.

Just by putting their names on this Declaration of Independence, which I hold in my hand, the 56 signers became guilty of high treason against the British Crown. It was a crime that was punishable by death. But the unflagging determination of that generation was expressed in the words of Patrick Henry, who declared: "Give me liberty or give me death." It was also demonstrated by a 21-year-old schoolteacher turned soldier-patriot named Nathan Hale.

If your American history book doesn't tell the story of Nathan Hale, it is not a history book. It is probably a book on social studies, not a book of American history. I studied American history by reading Muzzey back in 1927, 1928, by the light of an old kerosene lamp. Muzzey. He told the story of Nathan Hale: When about to be executed by the British for supplying GEN George Washington with important information—drawings of the British gun emplacements, and so on, and about the location and the strength of the

British troops, Nathan Hale uttered those immortal words: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

The leaders of that generation of revolutionary Americans were not your down and out, nothing-left-to-lose, rebel-rousing revolutionaries.

Benjamin Franklin was a transatlantic figure, a world figure of great accomplishments. He was a world-renowned and respected scholar, philosopher, inventor, diplomat, and scientist.

George Washington was a highly respected, wealthy landowner. He did not have to leave his beautiful, vast country estate and risk everything, including his family fortune and death, to lead a ragtag revolutionary army against the mighty British military machine.

Thomas Jefferson was a great scientist, a great mathematician, author, educator, architect, inventor, political leader.

This list of greats in the revolutionary generation also includes such giants as James Madison, George Mason, Alexander Hamilton, James Otis, Samuel Adams, John Adams, and the list goes on and on. And it does not stop with the leaders. The list includes colonial merchants such as Robert Morris. It includes colonial craftsmen such as Paul Revere. It includes tens of thousands of colonial workers who made up the famous correspondence committees, the Sons of Liberty who enforced the boycotts of British goods, carried out the Stamp Act protests, and dumped the British tea into Boston Harbor.

It was these nameless colonial workers who made up that Revolutionary Army, who shivered through the cold winter at Valley Forge, who made that daring crossing over the Delaware River on that frigid Christmas Eve, and who turned the world upside down at Yorktown.

After winning the Revolution, this generation put their vision of America into a workable form, a government that embodied the principles, ideals, and values for which they had fought and died. So many of our Founding Fathers assembled in Philadelphia that hot summer of 1787 and formulated the U.S. Constitution, a copy of which I hold in my hand.

Mr. President, it simply does not get any greater than that when we speak of the greatest generation, but I cannot and I will not say that generation was greater than the generation that prevailed during the Great Depression and saved the world from the tyranny, the Nazi tyranny, nor can I say it was greater than the generation of Americans who experienced the events that led up to the Civil War, who saved the Union, and who ended the ugliest, most tragic chapter of American history: the chapter concerning the institution of human slavery. That generation of American greats included President Abraham Lincoln, Senators Charles Sumner, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun,